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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

August 8, 2011

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The Honorable Leon Panetta
Secretary of Defense
The Pentagon Rm 3E 880
Washington DC 20301

Dear Secretary Panetta 

I want to draw your attention to the enclosed letter I received from retired Marine Corps General Charles Krulak regarding an Afghanistan/Pakistan (Af/Pak) Study Group.

General Krulak makes an important point that we cannot be successful in Afghanistan if we do not address the ongoing tensions and frequent hostilities between Pakistan and India. I again ask you to take the language in the FY 2012 Defense Appropriations bill and use your authority to create the Af/Pak Study Group. Every day we delay is another missed opportunity to successfully address U.S. policy in South Asia.

Thank you for your time and I look forward to meeting with you in the near future to discuss this important issue.

Best wishes.

Sincerely 

Frank R. Wolf
Member of Congress

FRW:cw
enclosure





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BSC

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July 25, 2011

Congressman Frank R. Wolf
241 Cannon House Office Building
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Dear Congressman Wolf,

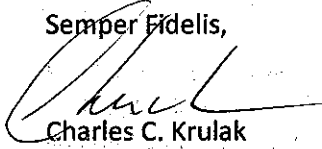
Thank you so much for your letter of July, 20, 2011 forwarding me your letter to Secretary Panetta. You asked for my thoughts on the proposed Af/Pak Study Group and here they are:

I think you are spot on! It should be obvious to everyone concerned that the time has come to do a professional evaluation of the current policy in the region. When I mention "region", I believe it is important to include India. At the end of the day, Afghanistan, Pakistan and India are inextricably linked....you cannot establish policies in a stove pipe manner. The Study Group will immediately recognize that fact and accommodate it.

It is important to understand that conflict occurs at three levels....Strategic, Operational, and Tactical. Too often we look at the tactical level...see the heroism and accomplishments of our servicemen and women...and make conclusions re. the conduct of the war. Unfortunately, that is NOT the way to look at this current conflict. Like Vietnam, we can do a solid job at the Tactical Level and lose the war at the Operational and Strategic Levels. This is where we find ourselves today in Afghanistan....and the path to any kind of victory is closely linked to success in Pakistan and India. The possibility of achieving such success across all three countries is small....certainly following the policies in place today (and yesterday.)

Again, I applaud your work and on behalf of those young men and women who are sacrificing so far from home, I thank you.

Semper Fidelis,


Charles C. Krulak
General, USMC (Ret.)
31st Commandant of the Marine Corps
13th President, Birmingham-Southern College